



Marsh Gibbon CE School

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Website: <http://www.marshgibbonschool.co.uk>

Headteacher: Mrs Louise Metherell

Dear Parents,

The Governing Body are continually seeking ways to improve our school and feedback from you, the parents, is a vital component of this. As part of our efforts to maintain the high standards of care and education of the children in the school, we invited all parents to complete a survey in the first half of this term.

We were delighted to receive survey responses from parents representing two-thirds of the children in our school. We sincerely thank you for taking the time to share your perspective, and would now like to share a summary of the findings with you.

Overall the responses were overwhelmingly positive, with 98% of you strongly agreeing or agreeing that your child is happy at school; and 94% of you strongly agreeing or agreeing that your child is making good progress at school. Indeed, in all but three areas covered in the survey, the results showed improvement on the previous survey, conducted in late-2007. Even those areas which showed a slight decline compared to the previous result were still showing more than 95% of favourable responses. Attached to this letter, you will find a page summarising the responses to the sixteen questions we asked you.

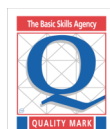
Despite the overwhelmingly positive response, there were a number of issues and suggestions raised which we would like to address:

Homework:

Whilst the vast majority of you (84%) strongly agreed or agreed that we provide homework which supports your child's learning, this compares to 92% in the previous survey. We would urge any of you who have specific concerns in this area to arrange to talk with your class teacher who will be happy to explain the rationale and reasoning behind particular homework tasks, and discuss individual ways to make the homework more appropriate for your particular child. Please email the school (office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk) or leave a note in your child's book bag, requesting a meeting.

Communication:

Again, an overwhelming majority (85%) of you strongly agreed or agreed that you are kept well informed about how your child is getting on, however there were a number of questions raised about the timing and regularity of parents' evenings during the school year. We have given serious consideration to all of your suggestions and ideas, and believe that the current system is working well for most of our children. We would, however, like to remind you that any parent can seek feedback about their child's progress at any time during the year. Once again please contact us via email or the book bags to arrange a suitable time. Equally, the teaching staff will request to see you individually if they have any particular concerns about your child at any point during the year.





In terms of general communication between school and home, we are seeking to make better use of our website (<http://www.marshgibbonschool.co.uk/>). If you haven't looked there recently, you will find an array of new material and electronic copies of most letters, which we send home. Whilst we would ideally like to expand our use of both the website and email, there are financial implications which we need to build into the future budgets to enable us to become fully "on-line". If there are any specific things that you would like to see on the website, please let the school or one of the governors know.

Behaviour:

At the time of the previous survey there were some concerns raised about boisterous behaviour in some classes and the playground. We were particularly pleased to see a number of you made favourable comments on this current survey indicating that the actions we have put in place have been seen to make a positive impact. Hence 94% of you strongly agreed or agreed that pupils behave well at school in this survey compared to 80% previously. Clearly this is an area, which we will continue to monitor closely.

Additional Classes:

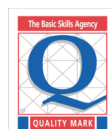
Several of you expressed a desire for the School to extend through Years 5 and 6 i.e. up to age 11. We are currently part-way through our site development programme, which will see us complete a programme of work to make the existing facilities appropriate for our current size. The new extended classrooms are part of this plan, the next stage being expansion of the school hall and provision of a library and administration block. The existing site could not possibly accommodate seven classes of thirty children; therefore we need to ensure that current requirements are met before considering taking on more children. We are, however very keen to work with the Diocese, Bucks County Council and, of course, parents, to consider providing additional classes for 10 and 11 year olds as part of our ongoing School Development Plan. Whilst it would be wonderful to move ahead with this, sadly we need to raise considerable funds to make the existing plans come to fruition, however you may be rest assured that this remains in our medium to long term aspirations!

Finally, a small number of you made a specific comment or query about your individual situation on the Questionnaire. These issues will be addressed with you directly by either the Teaching Staff or Governing Body, as appropriate, before the end of this term. A copy of the original questionnaire and some charts will soon be available on the website, however if you would like more information, please do not hesitate to talk to one of us.

Once again thank you for replying to the survey and, on behalf of the Governing Body, I wish you all a very happy Summer.

Kind Regards,

Matt Smith
Chair of Governors



Summary of Responses to the 2009 Parent Survey

